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Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" May I know whether the matter of continuing it is being considered now ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Yes. When I say that the matter is under consideration, it means it is under the consideration of the Government whether they should continue it or not."

Veterinary

Rinderpest epidemic in South Kanara.

*38 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government are aware that rinderpest of a virulent type is now raging round about Mudabidri and other places in South Kanara ;

(*b*) whether serum-simultaneous injections are being given for combating this epidemic ; and if so,

(*c*) how many cattle have so far been given injections ; and

(*d*) what steps are being taken to control this epidemic and prevent its spread to other places ?

A—(*a*) The Director of Veterinary Services received a report from the District Veterinary officer, Calicut, that rinderpest was prevalent in and around Mudabidri and asked for the supply of anti-rinderpest serum sufficient to inoculate thousand animals ;

(*b*) *to* (*d*) Yes. Since the beginning of this month, the District Veterinary Officer, Calicut, has been supplied with 15,000 doses of serum. Larger supplies could not be arranged as the total quantity indented for from the Muktesar Institute had not been received. In September last, the Director indented for 140,000 doses but was supplied only 100,000 doses.

No information is available as to how much of the 15,000 doses supplied to the District Veterinary Officer are intended for inoculating the cattle in Mudabidri and the villages around it.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that, due to want of sufficient stock of serum, the work of injection has not been carried satisfactorily in the affected area ? "

The hon. Mr P. T. RAJAN :—" The reply to the supplementary question is contained in the answer to clauses (*b*) to (*d*)."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know how Government propose to get the required supply of serum for carrying on effectively the work of injection in the affected areas ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" The question of opening a serum institution in this Presidency itself is engaging the attention of the Government."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know whether Government will take prompt measures to control the epidemic in South Kanara ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" They are already doing that."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT :—" May I know how many cattle have died in rinderpest in South Kanara ? "

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The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I will call for the information."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Is the existing staff sufficient to cope with the situation ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Notice."

Medical

The Headquarters Hospital, Ootacamund.

* 39 Q.—Mr. J. A. DAVIS: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the present accommodation in the Headquarters Hospital, Ootacamund, is insufficient to meet the growing needs of the station ;

(*b*) whether the Surgeon-General has submitted proposals for the erection of a suitable hospital on an adequately large site ;

(*c*) whether, pending the disposal of the Surgeon-General's recommendations, he has suspended all necessary extensions ;

(*d*) in view of the above, whether the Government will suspend the erection of the ward for chronic and incurable diseases which is to be erected in the vicinity of the present hospital buildings ; and

(*e*) whether the hospital authorities have reported that there is no space for the erection of a diphtheria ward in the hospital compound and that such patients are to be housed in a temporary hut ?

A.—(*a*) The Ootacamund Hospital has accommodation for 65 in-patients (34 for men and 31 for women). The daily average of attendance of in-patients during the last three years was as shown below :—

1927	41·90
1928	54·57
1929	60·32

(*b*) & (*c*) One of the suggestions made by the Surgeon-General in June last was the construction of the hospital on a new site, but this proposal was deferred. The Surgeon-General was of the opinion that the improvements to the Ootacamund hospital were not so urgent as to take precedence of other major schemes. In view of the magnitude of their commitments [a] to these and the existing financial stringency, Government can hold out little hope of undertaking the Ootacamund improvements at an early date.

(*d*) the Government see no reason for suspending the construction of the ward.

(*e*) The Government have no information.

Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—" Will the hon. the Minister take into consideration the circumstances that, if the headquarters hospital is eventually shifted to a more suitable site, another ward for chronic and incurable cases will

[a] Commitments :—Balance on 31st March 1931—

	LAKHS.
General Hospital, Madras	28·59
Combined administrative block for General Hospital and Pathological Institute for the Medical College	10·07
Headquarters Hospital, Madura	14·23
Do. Ellore	4·86
Medical School and buildings, Guntur	3·38